

Q3 5 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 4 in which the vector is a shuttle vector [capable of replicating] that replicates in different host cell species or strains.

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Q4 8 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 7 in which the host cells have been modified by the introduction, induction or overproduction of a known metabolic pathway of interest or portion thereof prior to containing the expression constructs.

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Q5 C 10 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 7 in which the host cells further contain a reporter regimen tailored to identify clones in the library that are expressing desirable metabolic pathways, <sup>products,</sup> ~~gene product~~ or compounds.

C 11 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 7 in which the reporter regimen comprises DNA encoding a reporter gene operably-associated with a regulatory <sup>products,</sup> ~~gene product~~ region that is inducible or modulated by the desirable metabolic pathways, ~~gene product~~ or compounds expressed by the host cell.

C 12 (amended). The gene expression library of Claim 7 in which the host cells are in a matrix containing a reporter regimen tailored to identify clones in the library that are <sup>products,</sup> ~~gene product~~ expressing desirable metabolic pathways, ~~gene product~~ or compounds.

13 (amended). A method for making a mobilizable combinatorial gene expression library, comprising ligating a shuttle vector[, capable of replicating] that replicates in different species or strains of host cell, to one or more cDNA or genomic DNA fragments to form a pool of expression constructs, wherein said cDNA or genomic DNA

a5 fragments in the pool of expression constructs are obtained from a plurality of species of donor organisms, and wherein the genes contained in the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments are each operably-associated with their native or exogenous regulatory regions which drive expression of the genes in an appropriate host cell.

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a6 15 (amended). The method of claim 13 wherein [some of] the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments contained in the expression constructs are preselected for a specific property.

c 16 (amended). The method of Claim 13, 14, or 15 in which the DNA vector is a plasmid vector, a phage vector, a viral vector, a cosmid vector, or an artificial chromosome.

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a8 18 (amended). A method for making a combinatorial gene expression library comprising transferring a pool of expression constructs in a species of host organism to another species or strain of host organism, said expression construct comprising a shuttle vector [capable of replicating] that replicates in different species or strains of host cell, said shuttle vector comprising one or more cDNA or genomic DNA fragments [obtained from a plurality of species of donor organisms], wherein the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments in the pool of expression constructs are obtained from a plurality of species of donor organisms, and wherein the genes contained in the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments are each operably-associated with their native or exogenous regulatory regions which drive expression of the genes in an appropriate host cell.

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21 (amended). A method for making a biased combinatorial gene expression library, comprising ligating a DNA vector to one or more cDNA or genomic DNA fragments [obtained from one or more species of donor organisms, some of which are selected for a specific property,] to generate a library of expression constructs, wherein the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments in the library are obtained from a plurality of species of donor organisms and are selected for a specific property, and wherein [in which] genes contained in the cDNA or genomic DNA fragments are each operably-associated with their native or exogenous regulatory regions which drive expression of the genes in an appropriate host cell.

Please add the following new claims :

24~~27~~ (new). The gene expression library of Claim 1, 2, or 3 in which each expression construct is contained in a host cell that contains proteins that mediate transfer of the expression construct by conjugation.

25~~28~~ (new). The method of claim 18 wherein the pool of expression constructs is contained in host cells that contain proteins that mediate transfer of the expression constructs by conjugation.

#### REMARKS

The specification has been modified to incorporate the Sequence Listing pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(c), to insert the appropriate sequence identifiers pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(d) and to renumber the pages of claims accordingly.